

DD/A Registry

77-4606

Letterhead

Executive Registry

77-8584/A

ODP 1610-77

15 AUG 1977

Acting Director
Institute for Computer Sciences and Technology
National Bureau of Standards
Washington, D.C. 20234

Dear Sir:

In response to Secretary Kreps' August 2, 1977 letter to Admiral Turner, I have been asked to designate a representative to work with you on an assessment of the extent of use and compliance with Federal Information Processing Standards in the Central Intelligence Agency.

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Accordingly, I have designated [redacted] of my staff to represent CIA. [redacted] and he can be reached at the Agency address.

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Sincerely,

[redacted signature]

Clifford B. May, Jr.
Director of Data Processing

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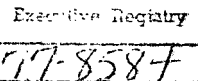
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THE SECRETARY OF COMMERCE
Washington, D.C. 20230

AUG 2 1977



Dear Admiral Turner:

In 1965 the Congress enacted P. L. 89-306 (the Brooks Act) to bring about more effective acquisition and use of automatic data processing equipment in the Federal Government and to improve automatic data processing management. The Act authorizes the Secretary of Commerce to recommend to the President uniform Federal automatic data processing standards. In 1973, Executive Order 11717 gave the Secretary of Commerce responsibility for approving automatic data processing standards for the President and for carrying out certain standard management functions previously performed by the Office of Management and Budget.

During the period 1968-1976, more than 40 Federal Information Processing Standards (FIPS) and guidelines have been approved and issued. These standards, developed by the National Bureau of Standards under delegation of authority from the Secretary of Commerce, are used by Federal agencies and departments unless a waiver is obtained by the agency head after coordination with the National Bureau of Standards.

Naturally, the benefits which may be expected from such standards depend upon their widespread acceptance and implementation. The benefits to the Government may take the form of procurement or life cycle cost savings, of increased compatibility in information interchange, of increased competition and/or product differentiation, of avoiding misuse or abuse of expensive computer resources, and the like.

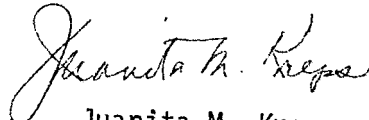
As we have gained experience in the development and issuance of the FIPS, we have also been concerned of late that Federal agencies are not utilizing the FIPS to the extent expected, and that the Brooks Act has, therefore, not been as effective as anticipated. Others who have expressed similar concern are Congressman Brooks, the Comptroller General, and the Director of the Office of Management and Budget. The lack of compliance with FIPS is cited as a major problem in the recent House Report 94-1746 dated October 1, 1976, which was issued by the House Committee on Government Operations.

EXECUTIVE REGISTRY FILE *Commerce*

2.

To deal with this problem we shall need to know the extent of the use of FIPS by your agency so that an assessment of FIPS compliance can be included in the National Bureau of Standards planned "Annual Report" on the FIPS program. I would appreciate having a representative from your agency to assist us in developing this reporting mechanism. Please forward the name of your representative to the Acting Director, Institute for Computer Sciences and Technology, National Bureau of Standards, Washington, D.C. 20234 within 15 days. Following receipt of the names of agency representatives, an appropriate schedule and program will be established for completing this task.

Sincerely,


Juanita M. Kreps

Admiral Stansfield Turner, U.S. Navy
Director of Central Intelligence
Washington, D.C. 20505

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Approved For Release 2006/08/09 : CIA-RDP80M00165A001700120024-8

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